Drought Prone Areas in Maharashtra

2281. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in Maharashtra that are facing drought conditions at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State of Maharashtra is likely to be in the grip of drought;

(c) whether Government have received any report from Maharashtra Government in this regard;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what measures have been taken or are proposed to be taken by the Central Government to assist the State Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The State Government of Maharashtra has reported that drought conditions have affected 12607 villages in 19 districts, 141.47 lakh population and cropped area of 58.6 lakh hectares.

(e) The Government of Maharashtra submitted a memorandum seeking additional central assistance of Rs. 576 58 crores for 1991-92 and Rs. 212.83 crores for 1992-93 for meeting the expenditure on management of drought. The request of the State Government has been considered in the light of existing policy for financing the relief expenditure and it has been decided that no additional central assistance can be provided for this purpose. The State Government of Maharashtra has been advised to meet the expenditure on management of drought out of the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund.

States Affected by Natural Calamities

2282. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the demands of the State Governments towards relief against natural calamities — drought cyclones, floods etc. this year.

(b) what is the estimated damage suffered by the State Governments this year;

(c) what are the estimates of Central Teams, if any which have visited the affected areas; and

(d) the amount of Central relief sanctioned to each State and the amount actually utilized so far by State Governments, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted with a total allocation of Rs. 804 crores (Rs. 603 crore Central contributions and Rs. 201 crore States' contribution) for all the States. Some of the States submitted memoranda asking for additional assistance over and above the Calamity Relief Fund. A statement indicating the estimated damage and additional assistance sought for relief in the wake of natural calamities during 1991-92 is enclosed. (*See below*)

(c) Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, the State Govts. are required to undertake relief operations in the wake of natural calamities out of the corpus of the Calamity Relief Funds. The scheme does not provide for deputing Central teams. Since no Calamity Relief Fund has been provided for Union Territories, a Central team visited Pondicherry recently to assess the extent of damage caused by recent cyclonic storm and the assistance required. The report of the Team is under consideration.

(d) The Central share of Calamity Relief Fund released to affected States is indicated in the column 5 of the enclosed statement. The details of expenditure incurred out of Calamity Relief Fund have not yet become available from the State Governments.